

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly for conducting a fluid, comprising:
  - a joint assembly inlet;
  - a joint assembly outlet; and
  - a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:
    - a first pivot joint;
    - a second pivot joint; and
    - a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints,  
wherein the pivot joints together provide greater than a 60° bend between  
the inlet and the outlet and each pivot joint independently provides greater than a  
35° bend in the fluid flow path.
2. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint independently comprises a ball and socket joint.
3. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 2 wherein each ball and socket joint comprises:
  - a socket;
  - a ball received in the socket; and
  - a seal between the ball to the socket.
4. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 3 wherein each ball and socket joint further comprises a compressing member axially compressing the seal between the ball and the socket.
5. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 4 wherein each compressing member comprises a retaining ring compressing the seal between the ball and the socket.
6. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the central fluid conductor couples to a first ball of the first pivot joint and a second ball of the second pivot joint.
7. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint together provide a substantially 90° bend between the inlet and the outlet.

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8. ( original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the central fluid conductor is unitary.

9. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the central fluid conductor is shorter than 10 centimeters.

10. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet include a fitting.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein each pivot joint independently provides greater than a 40° bend in the fluid flow path.

13. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

a joint assembly inlet;

a joint assembly outlet; and

a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the flow path including:

a first pivot joint;

a second pivot joint; and

a unitary central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints, each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint including:

an inner member;

a receiving member dimensioned to pivotally receive at least part of the inner member;

a sealing member sealing between the inner member and the receiving member; and

a supporting member supporting the sealing member substantially uniformly over the entire length of the seal between the inner member and the receiving member.

14. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 13 wherein each sealing member comprises an annular seal having a first surface.

15. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 14 wherein each supporting member comprises an annular support having a second surface configured to mate with the first surface of the annular seal thereby supporting the annular seal substantially uniformly.

16. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 13 wherein:

each receiving member comprises a first engagement surface; and

each supporting member comprises a second engagement surface, wherein

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the first engagement surface is configured to engage the second engagement surface to maintain a fixed relative position between the receiving member and the supporting member.

17. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 16 wherein the first engagement surface includes threads dimensioned to engage with threads on the second engagement surface.

18. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 13 wherein each sealing member comprises an elastomeric material.

19. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 13 wherein:

each inner member comprises a ball;

each receiving member comprises a socket; and

each sealing member comprises an O-ring sealing the ball to the socket.

20. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 19 wherein the O-ring has an inner diameter greater than 90% of the diameter of the ball.

21. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

a joint assembly inlet;

a joint assembly outlet; and

a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:

a first pivot joint configured to pivot about a first pivot (P1);

a second pivot joint configured to pivot about a second pivot (P2);

and

a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint, each of the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint including:

an inner member having a dimension (D) in a direction substantially normal to a path the flow path through each of the pivot joint assemblies' inlet and outlet;

a receiving member dimensioned to receive at least part of the inner member; and

a sealing member sealing the inner member to the receiving member at a distance of less than 14% of the a maximum of dimension (D) from the respective pivot.

22. (previously amended) The flexible joint assembly of claim 21 wherein:

the first pivot (P1) is a pivot point;

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- the second pivot (P2) is a pivot point.
23. (currently amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:
- a joint assembly inlet;
  - a joint assembly outlet; and
  - a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:
    - a first pivot joint configured to pivot over a first arc about a first pivot (P1);
    - a second pivot joint configured to pivot over a second arc about a second pivot (P2); and
    - a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints, each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint including:
      - a received joint member having a dimension (D) in a direction substantially normal to a path the flow path through each of the pivot joint assemblies' inlet and outlet; and
      - a receiving joint member dimensioned to pivotally receive at least part of the received joint member, wherein:
        - either the received joint member is coupled to one of the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet and the receiving joint member is coupled to the central fluid conductor, or the receiving joint member is coupled to one of the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet and the received joint member is coupled to the central fluid conductor; and
        - a contact point between each receiving joint member and the central fluid conductor whereby the pivot joint is fully pivoted over the respective arc being within 75% of the maximum of dimension (D) distant from the respective pivot.

24. (currently amended) The flexible joint assembly of claim 23 wherein each receiving joint member extends less than 35% of the maximum of dimension (D) beyond the respective pivot.

25. (currently amended) The flexible joint assembly of claim 24 wherein each receiving joint member extends less than 30% of the maximum of dimension (D) centrally beyond the respective pivot.

26. (previously amended) The flexible joint assembly of claim 23 wherein each of the first pivot (P1) and the second pivot (P2) is a pivot point.

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27. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 23 wherein each receiving joint member:

is coupled to one of the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet; and defines a chamber in communication with the central fluid conductor, the chamber being dimensioned to subsume an at least 115° arc about the respective pivot.

28. (original) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

a first ball and socket joint;

a second ball and socket joint; and

a unitary central fluid conductor connecting the first ball and socket joint and the second ball and socket joint, wherein the assembly is configured to withstand pressures between about 200 and 5000 PSI.

29. (original) The flexible joint assembly of claim 28 wherein each of the first ball and socket joint and second ball and socket joint comprises:

a sealing member between the ball and the socket; and

a supporting member contacting the sealing member substantially uniformly over the entire length of the seal between the ball and the socket.

30. -40. (previously cancelled).

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